

SENATE BILL 812
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 4, relative to custom motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111, is amended by adding a new subsection thereto, as follows:

(g)

(1) Upon receipt of an application on a form prescribed by the commissioner, applying for registration and certifying that the motor vehicle for which registration is being applied is a "custom motor vehicle," the commissioner may issue license plates to owners of custom motor vehicles in accordance with the provisions of part 2 of this chapter. Such license plates shall bear the word "CUSTOM" in capital letters at the bottom of such plate, and a unique identifying number in the center of the plate. For the purpose of this section, "custom motor vehicle" is a motor vehicle:

(A) Over twenty-five (25) years old and of a model year after 1948, or was manufactured to resemble a vehicle twenty-five (25) years old or older and of a model year after 1948; and

(B) That has been altered from the manufacturer's original design, or has an entire body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

(2) Custom motor vehicles shall be used for participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar uses as a collector's item, but are in no event used for general transportation.

(3)

(A) As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise requires, “blue dot tail light” means a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle containing a blue or purple insert not more than one inch (1”) in diameter.

(B) A custom vehicle may use blue dot tail lights for rear lights, rear turning indicator lights, rear hazard lights, and rear reflectors.

(4) The model year and the year of manufacture that are listed on the certificate of title of a custom vehicle shall be the model year and year of manufacture that such vehicle resembles. The current and all subsequent certificates of title shall be designated with the word “REPLICA”.

(5) Such registration shall be valid so long as title to such vehicle is vested in the applicant, and shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter requiring annual registration.

(6) Any person violating the provisions of this sub-section, or operating a custom motor vehicle for general transportation purposes, shall forfeit such custom motor vehicle registration, shall be liable for the regular registration fee for that vehicle, and shall be barred from applying for or holding custom motor vehicle registration for five (5) years from the date of such violation.

(7) The owner or lessee of a custom motor vehicle may display the license plates from an era when the manufacture of such vehicle that the custom motor vehicle resembles occurred instead of the current license plates, provided that current license plates are maintained in the vehicle by the owner or lessee and produced for inspection upon the request of any law enforcement officer.

SECTION 2 Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111(a)(1), is amended by deleting the language “CLASS (C) Antique vehicles --- registration fee” and by substituting instead the language “CLASS (C) Antique and custom vehicles --- registration fee”.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(a), is amended by deleting item (1) in its entirety and by substituting instead the language:

(1) Antique or custom motor vehicle;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(a), is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

(15) Custom motor vehicle – twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) pursuant to § 55-4-111(a)(1) Class C and as provided for in § 55-4-111(g).

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.